UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,976,008 B2
DATED : December 13, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Egendorf

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page showing an illustrative figure, should be deleted and substitute the attached title page.

Title page,

Item [56], **References Cited**, U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS, add the following:

-- 3,652,795	3/1972	Wolf et al.	379/91.01
5,146,491	9/1992	Silver et al.	379/114.24
5,283,731	2/1994	Lalonde et al.	705/1
5,446,489	8/1995	Egendorf	725/1
5,590,197	12/1996	Chen et al.	705/65
5,724,424	3/1998	Gifford	705/79
5,727,163	3/1998	Bezos	705/27
5,819,092	10/1998	Ferguson et al.	717/1
5,826,241	10/1998	Stein et al.	705/26 --.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS, add the following:

-- 97/41586	11/6/97	WO
05-014510	1/22/93	Japan
06-291889	10/18/94	Japan
07-056888	3/3/95	Japan --.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS, add the following:

-- **Paul, Nora. "Database and Bulletin Board Services: A Guide to On-Line Resources". The Quill, vol. 81, no. 7, p. 18. September, 1993.**

Brenner, Joseph. "Guide to Database Distribution: Legal Aspects and Model Contracts, Second Edition". National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, chapters 3, 4, and 6. 1994.

"New Line for SBA". Family and Home Office Computing, vol. 12, no. 4, p. 19. April, 1994.

Blankenhorn, Dana. "Virtual Mall Opens in Cyberspace. Newsbytes. June 20, 1994.

Goradia et al. "NetBill 1994 Prototype". Carnegie Mellon University Information Networking Institute. August, 1994.

Meece, Mickey. "Start-Up Offers Payment System for Data Bought Over Internet". American Banker, vol. 159, no. 203, p. 1. Oct. 20, 1994.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,976,008 B2
DATED : December 13, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Egendorf

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page (cont'd),

Rodriguez, Karen. "Cyberspace Start-Ups Offer Internet Wares". InfoWorld, vol. 16, no. 43, p. 8. Oct. 24, 1994.

"First Virtual Bank of Cyberspace". Newsbytes News Network. October 28, 1994.

Press, Larry. "Commercialization of the Internet". Communications of the ACM, vol. 37, no. 10, p. 17. November, 1994.

Wiegers, Alex. "First Virtual Really Pays Bills". Business Journal, vol. 12, no. 40, p. 1. December 26, 1994.

Cummings, Joanne, and Knight, Fred. "Internet Service Providers to Ride a Familiar Roller Coaster". Business Communications Review, vol. 25, no. 1, p. 67. January, 1995.

Day, Jacqueline. "Industry Players in Hot Pursuit of Secure Internet Transaction Mode". Bank Systems & Technology, vol 32, no. 1. January, 1995.

Into the Cyberspace". Credit Card Management, vol. 7, no. 11, p. 34. February, 1995.

Blankenhorn, Dana. "Building the Tools for Web Commerce". Interactive Age, vol. 2, no. 8, p. 34. February 13, 1995.

Knowles, Anne. "Improved Internet Security Enabling On-Line Commerce (new services based on Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol, Secure Sockets Layer Standards)". PC Week, vol. 12, no. 11, p. 1. March 20, 1995.

Marrinan, Michele. "First Union, Open Market Hit the Internet". Bank Systems + Technology, vol. 32, no. 5, p. 6. May, 1995.

Singleton, Andrew. "Cash on the Wirehead: You Can't Do Business on the Internet If You Can't Pay Your Bills or Get Paid. Here's How". Byte, vol. 20, no. 6, p. 71. June, 1995.

Bowers, Richard. "First Virtual Offers Unique Internet Payment System". Newsbytes News Network, p. 1. June 23, 1995.

Bowers, Richard. "First Virtual Creates Corporation of Future". Newsbytes News Network, p. 1. June 28, 1995. --.

Column 1,
Line 31, "nave" should read -- have --.

Column 2,
Line 12, "exxisting" should read -- existing --.
Lines 29 and 37, "vender," should read -- vendor, --.
Lines 50-51, "offer customers" should read -- offer their customers --.
Line 56, "chance" should read -- change --.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 3,
Line 29, "agrees to the" should read -- agrees to do the --.
Line 35, "vender's" should read -- vendor's --.
Line 53, "or example," should read -- for example, --.
Line 54, "or o a" should read -- or to a --.
Line 63, "provider, to the" should read -- provider, not the --.

Column 4,
Line 6, "make" should read -- made --.
Line 55, "providers" should read -- provides --.
Line 57, "Access network, an" should read -- Access network **3** can be a telephone network, a cable television network, an --.
Line 58, "Prodigy, r a" should read -- Prodigy, or a --.
Line 66, "agreement" should read -- agreements --.

Column 5,
Line 25, "form" should read -- from --.
Line 40, "from the vendor" should read -- from the exchange of information taking place between the customer and the vendor --.
Line 50, "Provider then" should read -- Provider 2 then --.
Line 61, "**4.1-4.***n*and" should read -- **4.1-4.***n* and --.
Line 65, "customer" should read -- customers --.
Line 66, "is" should read -- in --.

Column 6,
Line 1, "services" should read -- service --.
Lines 7 and 14, "form" should read -- from --.
Line 26, "sued" should read -- used --.
Line 39, "VISA, Mastercard" should read -- VISA or Mastercard --.
Line 44, "is, t can" should read -- is, it can --.
Line 57, "or a" should read -- or an --.
Line 63, "For" should read -- for --.

Column 7,
Line 8, "amount" should read -- account --.
Line 9, "with the third" should read -- with a third --.
Line 62, "on Internet" should read -- an Internet --.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 8,
Line 8, "company an" should read -- company, an --.
Line 61, "preformed" should read -- performed --.

Column 9,
Line 3, "arced" should read -- agreed --.
Line 34, "patty" should read -- party --.

Column 12,
Line 23, "transaction." should read -- transaction; --.

Column 13,
Line 11, "by to" should read -- by the --.
Line 22, "patty" should read -- party --.
Line 45, "agreement; and" should read -- agreement, --.
Line 61, "vendor a" should read -- vendor, a --.

Column 14,
Line 67, "agreement." should read -- agreement, --.

Column 15,
Line 61, "remitted, to" should read -- remitted to --.
Line 18, "have to" should read -- have agreed to --.

Column 16,
Line 44, "tan" should read -- than --.
Line 23, "have to" should read -- have agreed to --.
Line 35, "to selling" should read -- to the selling --.

Column 18,
Line 29, "transaction," should read -- transaction; --.
Line 21, "have to" should read -- have agreed to --.

Column 19,
Line 64, "have to" should read -- have agreed to --.
Line 10, "alter" should read -- after --.

Column 20,
Line 16, "transaction over" should read -- transactions over --.
Line 57, "alter" should read -- after --.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,976,008 B2
DATED : December 13, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Egendorf

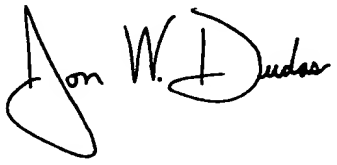
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 21,
Line 19, "transaction;" should read -- transaction, --.

Column 22,
Line 4, "have to" should read -- have agreed to --.
Line 17, "alter" should read -- after --.

Signed and Sealed this

Ninth Day of May, 2006



JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

(12) **United States Patent**
Egendorf

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,976,008 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: *Dec. 13, 2005**

(54) **INTERNET BILLING METHOD**

(75) Inventor: **Andrew Egendorf**, Lincoln, MA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Netcraft, Corporation**, Lincoln, MA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 290 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/975,839**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 11, 2001**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2002/0032654 A1 Mar. 14, 2002

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/568,925, filed on May 11, 2000, which is a continuation of application No. 09/057,230, filed on Apr. 8, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,188,994, which is a continuation of application No. 08/499,535, filed on Jul. 7, 1995, now Pat. No. 5,794,221.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **G06F 17/60**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/40**; 705/41; 705/42
(58) **Field of Search** 705/40, 41, 42

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,573,747	A *	4/1971	Adams	340/172.5
5,146,491	A *	9/1992	Silver et al.	379/114
5,329,589	A *	7/1994	Fraser et al.	379/91.02
5,394,324	A *	2/1995	Clearwater	705/8
5,446,489	A *	8/1995	Egendorf	348/3
5,737,414	A	4/1998	Walker et al.	380/4
5,845,265	A	12/1998	Woolston	705/37

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Carnegie Mellon University, "Internet billing Server Prototype Scope Document INI Technical Report 1993-1" (Oct. 14, 1993).*

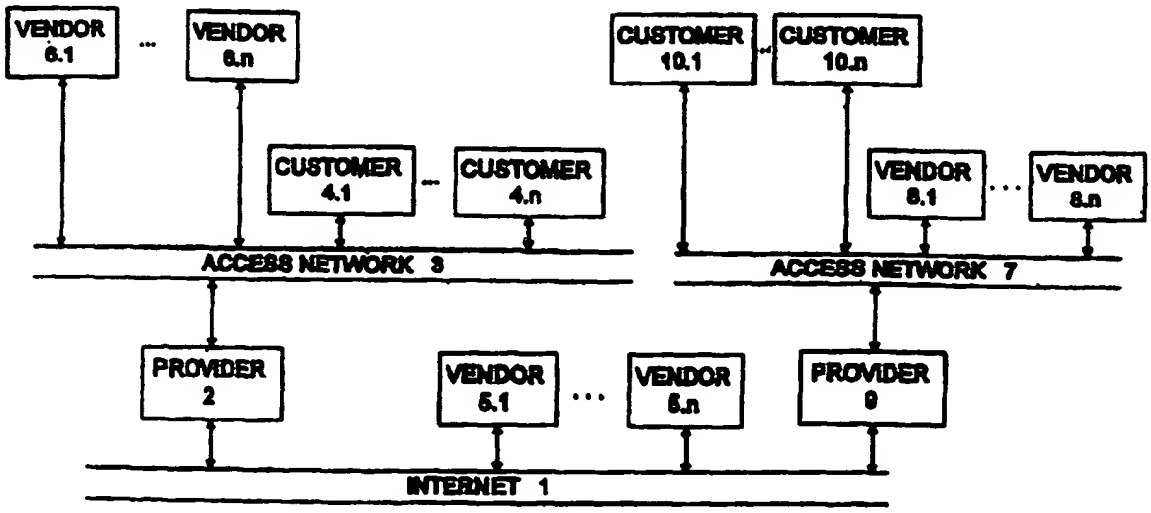
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—V. Millin
Assistant Examiner—Daniel S. Felten
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An Internet billing method comprises establishing an agreement between an Internet access provider and a customer, and an agreement between the Internet access provider and a vendor, wherein the Internet access provider agrees with the customer and the vendor to bill the customer and remit to the vendor for products and services purchased over the Internet by the customer from the vendor. The provider creates access to the Internet for the customer. When the customer orders a product or service over the Internet from a vendor, transactional information transmitted between the customer and the vendor is also transmitted to the provider. The provider then bills the transaction amount to the customer and remits a portion of the transaction amount to the vendor, keeping the differential as a fee for providing the service. As a result of this method, there is no need for any customer account numbers or vendor account numbers to be transmitted over the Internet, thereby maintaining the security of that information.

94 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



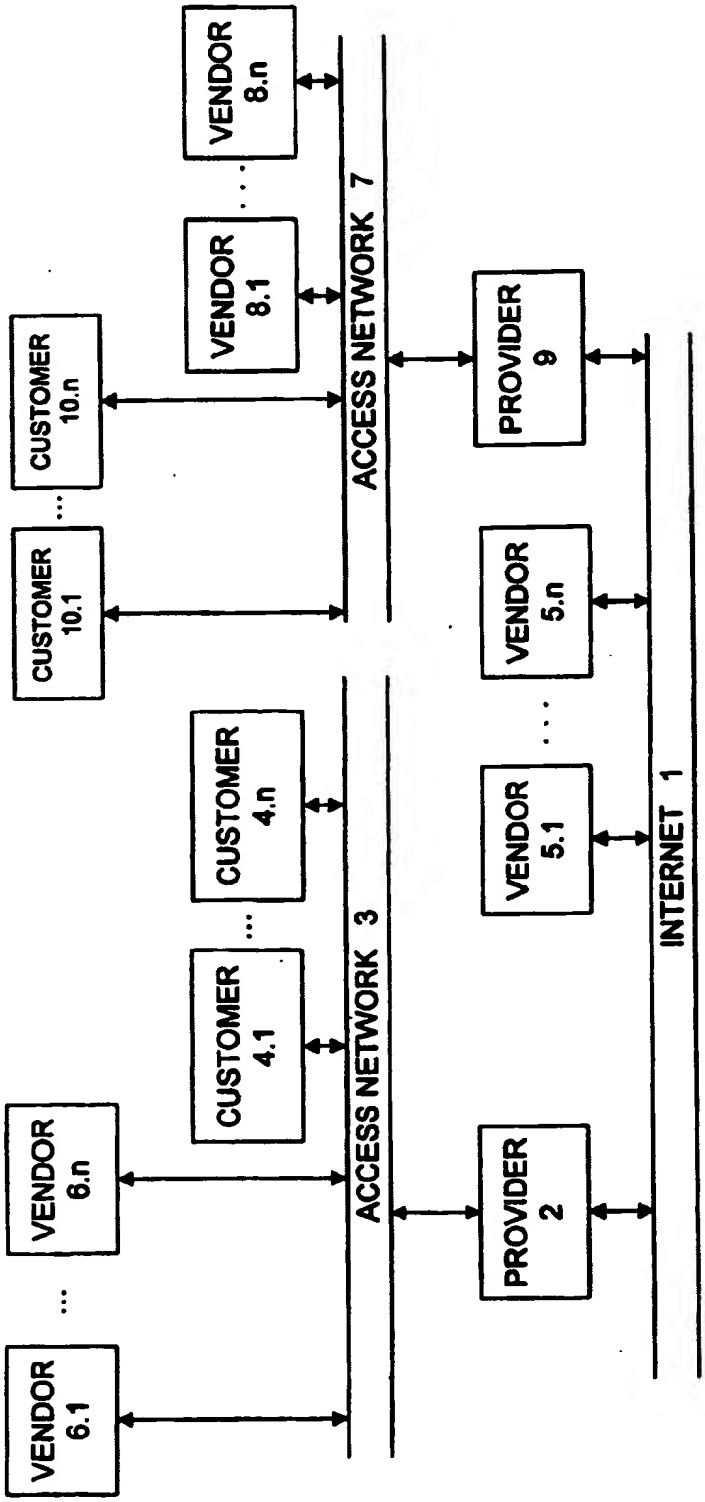

VENDOR 6.1
VENDOR 6.n
CUSTOMER 4.1
CUSTOMER 4.n
CUSTOMER 10.1
CUSTOMER 10.n
VENDOR 8.1
VENDOR 8.n
ACCESS NETWORK 3
ACCESS NETWORK 7
PROVIDER 2
PROVIDER 9
VENDOR 5.1
VENDOR 5.n
INTERNET 1

FIG. 1

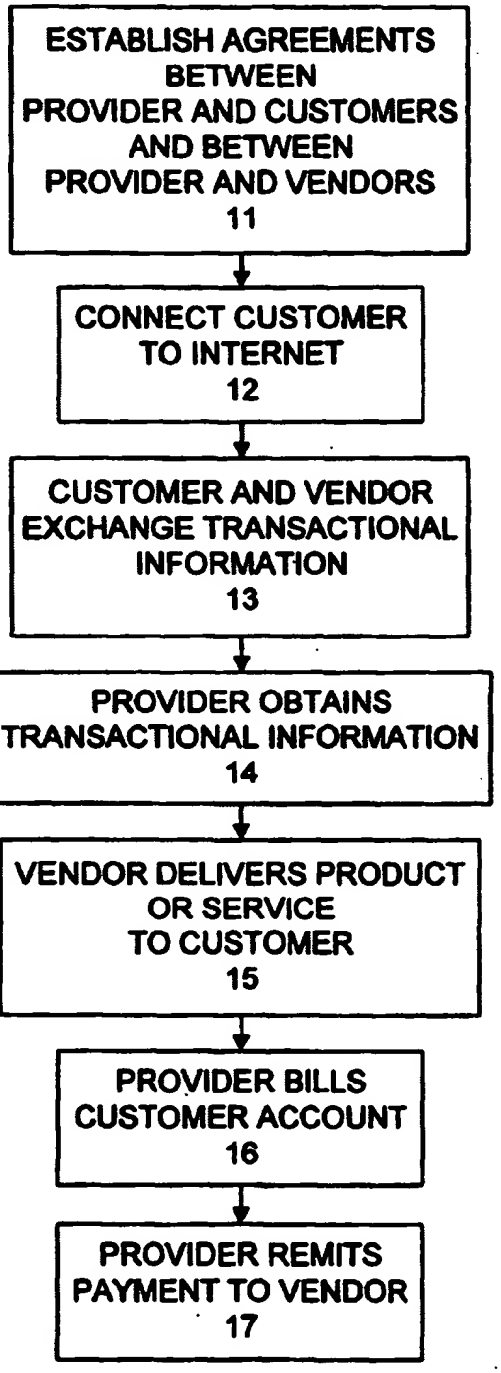

ESTABLISH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PROVIDER AND CUSTOMERS AND BETWEEN PROVIDER AND VENDORS 11
CONNECT CUSTOMER TO INTERNET 12
CUSTOMER AND VENDOR EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONAL INFORMATION 13
PROVIDER OBTAINS TRANSACTIONAL INFORMATION 14
VENDOR DELIVERS PRODUCT OR SERVICE TO CUSTOMER 15
PROVIDER BILLS CUSTOMER ACCOUNT 16
PROVIDER REMITS PAYMENT TO VENDOR 17

FIG. 2

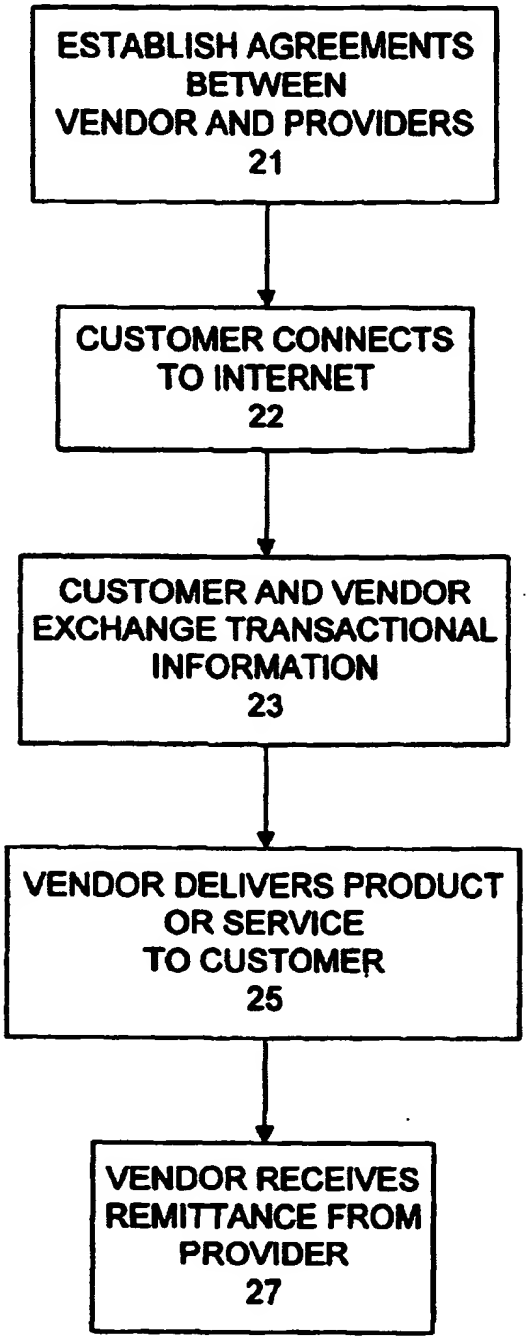

ESTABLISH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN VENDOR AND PROVIDERS 21
CUSTOMER CONNECTS TO INTERNET 22
CUSTOMER AND VENDOR EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONAL INFORMATION 23
VENDOR DELIVERS PRODUCT OR SERVICE TO CUSTOMER 25
VENDOR RECEIVES REMITTANCE FROM PROVIDER 27

FIG. 3